



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAN CHARGED WITH DISCHARGING A SHOTGUN DURING THE ROBBERY OF THE LIPARI BROTHERS THRIFTWAY STORE IN KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Raymond Forbes**, 21, Kansas City, Kansas, was charged today with one count of discharging a firearm during a robbery.

Melgren said that a complaint filed with the Court alleges that on October 27, 2003, Forbes entered by Lipari Brothers Thriftway Store at 800 Kansas Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas, brandishing a shotgun, announced that it was a “stick up” and fired a single shot from the shotgun into the ceiling of the business. The complaint further alleges that Forbes pointed the shotgun at a cashier and demanded the money from the register and from the safe. The complaint alleges that the cashier complied with this demand and gave Forbes the money from the register. The complaint alleges that Forbes then pointed the shotgun at an owner of the store and directed the owner to the safe and that the owner and Forbes struggled for the gun which discharged a second shot into the floor of the store. The complaint alleges that the owner wrestled the shotgun from Forbes who fled the store with the money from the register and was chased across the parking lot by store employees and detained until the police arrived. The complaint further alleges that Forbes left his eleven month old son in his car in the grocery store parking lot during the robbery.

Melgren stated that Forbes made his initial appearance today in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, before U.S. Magistrate Judge James P. O’Hara and was temporarily detained. He is set for a preliminary hearing and detention hearing on November 10, 2003, at 3:00 p.m. If convicted, Forbes faces a minimum of ten years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The charges filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.